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Everglades National Park News Release

February 28, 2003 For Immediate Release Rick Cook 305 242-7714

Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) - Extension of Public Scoping Comment Period

Due to wide interest in the Everglades National Park General Management Plan project, the park is extending the comment period in this initial scoping phase of the project to April 4, 2003. The previous date was March 3, 2003. This additional month will allow additional opportunity by the public to share their ideas about how best to manage and protect the 1.5 million-acre park.

All individuals and organizations interested in providing their issues and ideas about future management of Everglades National Park should mail comments by Friday, April 4, 2003 to:

National Park Service – Everglades GMP, Denver Service Center – attn: Terri Urbanowski, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225. Comments can also be sent via e-mail to ever_gmp@nps.gov.

The GMP will provide a broad, 20-year framework to guide decisions regarding long-range park management, natural and cultural resource protection, preservation of wilderness values, appropriate types and levels of visitor activities, and the extent of facility development desired. The GMP will articulate the park's mission, and define the resource conditions and visitor experiences that should be achieved and maintained over time.

Everglades National Park invites the participation of all individuals and organizations with an interest in the park throughout the course of this several-year effort. There will be numerous opportunities for the public to help shape the GMP, by contributing ideas and concerns about the park that will serve to enhance its future management. Participation by communities throughout South Florida, Indian tribes, government and private organizations, and the general public will be crucial to the plan's success.

To be added to the project mailing or e-mail list please contact the park at Everglades National Park, 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034, attn: Fred Herling or ever_gmp@nps.gov. You can keep current by visiting the planning website: www.nps.gov/ever/gmp/gmp index.htm.